

(B) Details of Sponsored Programmes

The following sponsored programmes have been approved:

1. Golden Moments	52 Eps.
2. Amazing India (Quiz Prog)	21 Eps.
3. Unknown Soldiers (Women freedom fighters)	26 Eps.
4. Emerging India (Achievements in various fields)	26 Eps.
5. Golden Jubilee show (Patriotic films songs)	13 Eps.
6. Quiz Programme	21 Eps.
7. Rani Chennaman	26 Eps.
8. Main Dilli Hoon	52 Eps.
9. Gatha (Soap opera) (Post-independence activities)	52 Eps.
10. Siyasat	52 Eps.
11. Achievements in 50 years (State-wise)	26 Eps.
12. Kahan Gaye Woh Log (Personality-based)	52 Eps.
13. Sangharash	52 Eps.
14. Pariwar	26 Eps.
15. Shubh-Labh	104 Eps.
16. Swathanthratha Samar Senani	26 Eps.
17. Making of a Nation	26 Eps.
18. Kanthapura (Based on the novel of Sh. Raja Rao)	26 Eps.

Songs and short films of 3-5 minutes' duration depicting freedom struggle and development of the country on various themes have been approved under sponsored category. These will be telecast every day during the whole year.

Statement-II*Details of Expenditure*

At the Directorate level, one commissioned programme each per week on DD-I, DD-II and DD-III will be telecast. The average budget for each episode of commissioned programme at Directorate level will be Rs. 2.5 lakhs.

(Total budget: $52 \times 3 \times 2.5 = \text{Rs. } 3.9 \text{ crores}$)

Besides, following eminent Film and TV Producers were selected to produce programmes for the National Channel with their own ideas.

1. Shri Girish Karnad.
2. Shri Budhadev Dasgupta.
3. Shri Shyam Benegal.
4. Shri Saeed Mirza.
5. Shri Bhupen Hazarika.

Each producer has been asked to produce 13 episodes, each with the budget of Rs. 1 crore (Total Rs. 5 crores).

Jingles and spots will be commissioned at the Directorate level.

(Total budget : Rs. 1 crore)

Each of the 15 news producing Kendras (Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Calcutta, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram) will commission 52 episodes upto a maximum budget of Rs.2 lakh per episode commissioning to not more than 10 producers.

(Total budget: $15 \times 52 \times 2 = \text{Rs. } 15.60 \text{ crores}$)

In addition PPC, Guwahati has been allotted Rs. 1 crore to produce programmes for the North East.

Refusal of Security Guards and Sweepers to Accept Daily Wages.

6240. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that security guards and sweepers in a large number of airports refused to accept daily wages during February 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Some labour employed and engaged in cleaning and watch and ward duty by the Contractor had refused to accept daily wages during February, 1997 at Mumbai airport.

(b) and (c) Consequent upon the judgement pronounced by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 6.12.96, the workmen hitherto engaged by the contractor in the job of cleaning and watch and ward are to be regularised by the Airports Authority of India. As a prelude to regularisation of the cleaning hands, they have been advised to furnish affidavits. Pending verification of details, payment of Rs. 2400/- per month (related to the No. of days being worked) is being disbursed to them from January, 1997. In so far as the watch and ward personnel are concerned, such personnel being borne on the strength of the Maharashtra Private Security Guards Board, consolidated cheque has been sent to the Board to disburse their monthly remuneration directly.

Winding up of Hotel Corporation of India

6241. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to wind up Hotel Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to modernise some hotels of Hotel Corporation of India and

also construct some new hotels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Hotel Corporation of India has plans to renovate its two Hotel Units in Mumbai and one in Delhi in the current financial year.

Outstanding Dues of MTNL, Delhi

6242. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Satish Sharma, Bina Ramani among glitzy lot let of the book DELHITIES owe MTNL Rs 450 crore" appearing in "The Economic Times" New Delhi dated February 20, 1997;

(b) If so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reasons for not recovering the dues so far by MTNL, Delhi; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to recover this huge amount?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total Telephone outstanding for DOT as on 31.1.97 was Rs. 1582 crores. Rs. 424 crores are outstanding from subscribers of MTNL, Delhi. These outstandings do not pertain to the current year alone but have accumulated over a period of time.

In cases where the cheques have bounced, cash/DD payments are insisted upon. Further, additional security is also taken.

The present position with reference to specific cases cited in the news item is given below:-

(i) Telephone No. 608647 of Mr. Bhupender Kumar. The subscriber had gone to court and the court has dismissed his petition on 2.4.97. Steps are being taken to recover the outstanding dues of Rs. 13.38 lakhs.

(ii) Telephone No. 6862466 of Captain Satish Sharma. The telephone stands disconnected and recovery process is being constantly monitored.

(iii) Telephone No. 6862931 of Mrs. Bina Ramani. The subscriber has since cleared the dues by cash payment.

(iv) M/s Apollo Tyres subscriber Shri O.S. Kanwar. The supplementary bills issued have been cleared.

(v) M/s Usha India Ltd. Part payment has been made by the party and the case is subjudice.

(c) The issue of bills and recovery thereof is a continuous process and there are well laid procedures for recovery of outstanding Telephone bills. Efforts are made to settle the billing disputes/Court cases quickly. For other cases recovery is pursued by correspondence/personal visits and legal action.

(d) Integration of various computerised systems like billing, Fault Repair Service (FRS) and commercial in one package as Customer Service Management System (CSMS) is being done during 1997-98. This will enable early issue of bills and On Line updation for all bill payments, facilitating quicker disconnection of telephones of defaulting subscribers, thereby improving the collection efficiency.

Amount Spend on Grand Badminton Championship

6243. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent in organising the Grand Badminton Championship at Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi from February 12, 1997 to February 16, 1997;

(b) the total number of Air India official involved in organising the championship and the extent of loss of manpower to the company;

(c) the amount spent by Air India Management in organising the sports tournaments in the last two years including Golf Championship at Chandigarh and Badminton Championship at Delhi;

(d) the total reserves of funds with Air India management, at present; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to stop unnecessary expenditure by Air India Management?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Air India incurred cash expenditure of Rs. 26.4 lakhs as the lead sponsor of World Grand Prix Badminton Championship.

(b) Only those officials who are functionally responsible for sports activities were involved or organising the event.

(c) Details are given below:-

	Budget (Amount in Crores)	Amount spent
1995-96	1.15	1.15
1996-97	1.15	0.61
		(upto 31.1.97)

(d) The total reserves as on 31.3.96 were Rs. 1056 crores.

(e) Expenditure for promotion of sports is in consonance with the board policy guidelines of the Government/Company.